

EPA-PNL-272

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08/20/2012 12:43 PM

To Phil North

cc

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Subject Businesses Object to EPA Tactics

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Pebble Update

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State Chamber: Bypassing Process Could Chill Development

The Alaska State Chamber has weighed in with strong objections to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) activities surrounding its draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment. Highly concerned with the potential precedent the agency's actions could precipitate, the Alaska State Chamber predicts that a resulting unpredictable regulatory system would have a devastating impact on statewide investment and Alaska's economy.

In its correspondence to the EPA, the Alaska State Chamber has challenged the EPA to respond to the multiple request made by the state of Alaska and Senator Lisa Murkowski related to conflicts of state and federal law and any potential Clean Water Act 404(c) actions. [Read the Alaska State Chamber letter to the EPA.](#)

Preemptive Decision Unacceptable

The Alaska Trucking Association (ATA) joins a wide range of businesses opposed to the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) actions related to its draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment and the state of Alaska's right to manage state land.

Noting that in Alaska, more than 60 major types of permits are required as part of any mining project permit application, the ATA defines the assessment as premature. Further, ATA expounds on the EPA's inapplicable modeling used within the draft assessment. [Read ATA's submission to the EPA.](#)

Established Process Stringent

In testimony given to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Associated General Contractors of Alaska (AGC), a construction trade association of more than 650 business members, has stated that EPA's actions related to the draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment are highly premature.

Stating that the agency's actions reach well beyond any process or authority contemplated in the Clean Water Act, Executive Director John MacKinnon criticized the agency's efforts to side step federal and state laws. [Read John MacKinnon's testimony to the EPA.](#)

Handy links:

[Alaska Resource Development Council](#)
[Alaska Miners Association](#)
[United States Geological Survey](#)
[Alaska Department of Natural Resources](#)
[Alaska Division of Mining, Land and Water](#)
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